

ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH  
NEW DELHI

**CIRCULAR**

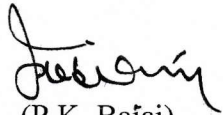
F. No. 22(2)/2017/AFT/Judl.

24<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

Having regard to extreme upsurge in the cases relating to COVID-19, it was directed that **only matters involving extreme urgency will be taken up by the Principal Bench through virtual hearing**, so as to maintain effective social distancing and to prevent spread of COVID-19. Hence, filing of only soft copies of the urgent matters relating to the Principal Bench was allowed and physical filing thereof was disallowed, vide Circular dated 23.04.2021.

It is emphasized here that keeping in view the prevailing situation arisen out of COVID-19, whereby millions of people have been infected across the country, soft copies of the urgent matters were allowed to be filed and the requirement of filing affidavits and vakalatnamas in originals were not insisted upon the learned counsel, which are invariably filed in originals.

It has been directed by the Competent Authority that in the event the situation improves and when physical filing of the matters is allowed, the learned counsel, who have filed the urgent matters in pursuance of the Circular dated 23.04.2021, shall file the affidavits in support of their respective matters together with vakalatnamas, **in originals**, in accordance with the Armed Forces Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 2008 and the Armed Forces Tribunal (Practice) Rules, 2009 framed under the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007.

  
(P.K. Bajaj)  
Deputy Registrar

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